

Urban District Council of Penrith



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1952

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

F. W. GAVIN

M.D., Ch.B (Edin), D.P.H., Medical
Officer of Health, Penrith Urban
and Penrith Rural Districts.
Assistant County Medical Officer.

I. S. JONES.

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.. Medical
Officer of Health Penrith Urban
and Wigton Rural Districts,
Assistant County Medical Officer.

R. N. SHARP.

Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute
and Sanitary Inspectors Examinations
Joint Board.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.,
Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
PENRITH.

August, 1952.

To the Chairman and Councillors
of the Urban District of Penrith.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It falls to my lot to present to you an Annual Report for the year 1952. I am afraid the only thing I can do is to give you the vital statistics for the year under review as I only became your Medical Officer on 1st July, 1953 and Dr. Gavin resigned in August, 1952.

The Birth Rate of 15.6 compares favourably with 16.6 in 1951. The Birth Rate for England and Wales is 15.3.

The Death Rate for the year is 12.9 as compared with 13.1 the previous year. The figure for England and Wales is 11.3.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 24.7. The rate for 1951 was 29.4. The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales is 27.6.

Internal Mortality: It is pleasing to report that there have been no maternal deaths in the district since 1945.

Infectious Diseases: The incidence was slight during the year.

I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Health Committee for the welcome they gave me at the first Committee Meeting I attended. I appreciate very much the help I have already received from my Colleagues on the staff. I would like to especially thank Mr. C. H. Huntley, Clerk of the Council; Mr. R. N. Sharp, my Sanitary Inspector; and Mr. F. Birkbeck, the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. SPEDDING JONES.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of District in Acres	7,576
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population ...	10,350
Population at Census of 1931.	9,065
Population at Census of 1951.	10,490
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books	3,064
Rateable Value... ..	£ 67,714
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£274. 5s. 3d

POPULATION:

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population for 1952 of 10,350 shows a decrease of 270 on the previous year.

The following table gives the estimated population for the last ten years :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Registrar-General's estimated population:</u>
1943	9,560
1944	9,947
1945	9,418
1946	9,653
1947	9,730
1948	10,500
1949	10,410
1950	10,670
1951	10,620
1952	10,350

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT:

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate	154	78	76
Illegitimate	8	6	2
Total live births	162	84	78

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimate resident population - 15.6

STILL BIRTHS:

Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total still births	6	3	3

RATE PER 1,000 (live and still births) - 35.7

DEATHS:

All causes	134	72	62
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DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated population - 12.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil
Deaths from other Maternal Causes	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births	24.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	24.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	Nil.

<u>DEATHS</u> from Cancer (all ages)	25
Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

According to the Registrar General's figures there were six deaths of infants under one year of age during 1952 as compared with five deaths in this group in 1951.

	1-24 hours	1-4 days	4 weeks	2 months	Total.
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital malformation (Hydrocephalus) ...	1	-	1	-	2
Broncho Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	1	1
Totals:-	2	-	1	1	4

TABLE SHOWING THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES AS A WHOLE AND CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND FOR THE YEAR 1952:-

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England and Wales... ..	15.3	11.3	27.6
Administrative County of Cumberland.... ..	17.3	12.1	32.0
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven) ...	17.6	12.9	29.0
Rural Districts of Cumberland...	17.0	11.6	34.0
URBAN DISTRICT OF PENRITH ...	15.6	12.9	24.7

The following table shows the birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate per thousand of the population during the past ten years :-

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
1943	18.79	10.18	9.85
1944	19.80	11.76	46.19
1945	14.55	14.01	51.09
1946	23.20	13.98	31.25
1947	20.14	15.93	35.71
1948	19.23	12.47	24.75
1949	17.39	15.00	38.67
1950	18.65	12.72	15.62
1951	16.64	13.18	29.41
1952	15.60	12.90	24.70

MATERNAL MORTALITY:

There were no deaths from this cause during 1952.

The following table gives the maternal mortality rate for the last ten years :-

Year.	No. of births (live & still).	Deaths.	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births.
1943	205	1	4.87
1944	206	Nil	Nil
1945	144	1	6.90
1946	229	Nil	Nil
1947	200	Nil	Nil
1948	204	Nil	Nil
1949	184	Nil	Nil
1950	196	Nil	Nil
1951	170	Nil	Nil
1952	168	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS:

The following table gives particulars of cases notified during 1952. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year :-

Ages.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1- 5....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-25....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35....	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55....	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
55-65....	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	9	10	1	1	-	-	-	-

The following table gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1952 :-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	32	28	60
Non-Pulmonary..	7	4	11
All forms of Tuberculosis..	39	32	71

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

The following table shows the number of cases notified (other than Tuberculosis) during the year:-

	Disease.						
	Scarlet Fever.	Whoop- ing Cough	Meas- les	Pneu- monia	Erysip- elas.	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Food Pois- oning
0- 1	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
1- 5	8	34	33	-	-	-	-
5-15	8	27	40	3	-	-	-
15-25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
25-45	-	2	-	1	1	3	1
45-65	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and..... upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	16	68	74	5	2	4	1

POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis)::

There were no cases notified during the year.

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS (Cerebro-Spinal Fever):

There were no notifications of this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH:

Sixty-eight cases of whooping cough were notified as compared with ninety-seven in the previous year. There were no deaths from this cause.

SCARLET FEVER:

Sixteen cases of scarlet fever were notified as compared with eleven the previous year. They were all mild cases and there were no deaths.

INFLUENZA:

There were no deaths from Influenza during 1952.

DIPHTHERIA:

For the eighth successive year there has been no deaths from diphtheria in the area. The last case of diphtheria in Penrith was notified in 1947.

The following table shows the number of deaths and notifications for England and Wales and Penrith District since 1944 :-

Year.	England & Wales.		Penrith Urban District.	
	Deaths.	Notific-ations	Deaths.	Notific-ations.
1944	934	23,199	2	12
1945	722	18,596	-	2
1946	472	11,986	-	1
1947	244	5,609	-	1
1948	156	3,575	-	-
1949	84	1,890	-	-
1950	49	962	-	-
1951	33	664	-	-
1952	31	274	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1952:

	Cause.	M.	F.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	2	-	2
4.	Diphtheria ...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough..	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis...	-	-	-
8.	Measles...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach. ...	1	2	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast..	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	5	14
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia. ...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes..	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	14	21
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	12	6	18
19.	Hypertension with heart disease...	2	3	5
20.	Other heart disease...	20	17	37
21.	Other circulatory disease...	-	3	3
22.	Influenza..	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia. ...	1	1	2
24.	Bronchitis ...	3	1	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations ...	1	2	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	4	1	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents...	2	1	3
35.	Suicide...	2	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-
	ALL CAUSES:-	72	62	134

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector):

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	12	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	71	50	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	2	2	-	-
TOTALS:-	86	64	3	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	8	-	2	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	-	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	9	9	-	4	-
TOTALS:-	22	20	-	9	-

To The Medical Officer of Health.

Water Engineer's Dept;
Town Hall,
PENRITH.

Sir,

WATER SUPPLY.

I have pleasure in presenting the following report for the year 1952.

During the early part of the year the amount of water in storage was dangerously low. By strict supervision of the Trunk Main, distribution mains and water services together with the imposition of restrictions in the use of water and publicity measures to emphasise the need for conservation of supplies, it was possible to build up reserves gradually to a more satisfactory total.

Supply is barely sufficient to meet demand and this state of affairs cannot be rectified until such time as the new Trunk Main Duplication Scheme can be completed. Materials will be delivered in the near future and it is hoped that the commencement of work will not be long delayed.

The water from Lake Hayeswater has maintained its purity, and inspections of the gathering ground, have been carried out.

The Council have purchased the Lake and a portion of the gathering ground.

Fishing is prohibited.

Distribution.

During the year a new leading main has been laid from the High Reservoir at Beacon Edge to Scaws Housing Estate. New distribution mains have also been laid to serve new housing development on the Estate.

Consumption.

Water consumption has increased to a small extent and it is interesting to note that domestic and agricultural demands are responsible for this.

				<u>Gallons.</u>
Average daily consumption				408,469
			gallons	per head per day
Domestic consumption ..	..	..	..	31.47
Industrial. ..	..	..	..	2.68
Agricultural ..	..	..	..	2.64
General Business. ..	..	..	..	1.80
Municipal and Public Services	..	..	..	.89

Total gallons per head per day:- 39.46

This total represents an increase of 1.74 gallons on the

Examination of Water.
Bacteriological Examination.

Filtered water taken from Filterhouse on 14.7.1952 at 6.15 p.m.

No coliform organisms present in 100 ml of the original water.

Bacteriologically highly satisfactory.

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Water taken from Carleton Reservoir on 16.9.1952 at 10.10 a.m.

No coliform organisms present in 100 ml of the original water.

Bacteriologically highly satisfactory.

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Chemical Examination.
Water from Fairhill Distribution Zone. 14.7.1952.

Appearance in a 2ft tube - Colourless with a little suspended matter.

Parts per million.

p.H. 7.2

Ammoniacal nitrogen..	..	..	..	..	0.025
Albuminoid nitrogen..	..	..	..	..	0.108
Nitrogen as nitrites..	..	..	..	..	-
Nitrogen as nitrates..	..	..	..	..	-
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate					
" " " in 15mins in 27° C					0.22
" " " in 4 hrs @ 27° C					0.32
Disolved solids dried for 1hr @ 180° C					40.00
Suspended matter ..	..	..	..	..	-
Hardness - total ..	..	..	..	..	18.00
Carbonate..	..	..	..	..	3.00
Non-Carbonate..	..	..	..	..	15.00
Chlorine present as chlorides..	..	..	..	..	5.00
Free Chlorine ..	..	..	..	..	-
Free carbon dioxide..	..	..	..	..	-
Heavy metals ..	..	..	..	..	0.00

Conclusion:

The provision of the duplicate trunk main from the Filter-house to Boardale Head Break Pressure Tank will ensure an adequate reserve in local storage, provide sufficient water for use in the immediate future; and allow the margin necessary for the satisfactory operation of the Filtration Plant and other installations.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. BIRKBECK.

August, 1953.

Water Engineer.

Report

on the

Work Carried Out

by the

Sanitary Inspector

during the year.

To Dr. I. S. Jones,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting a survey of the work carried out during the year 1952. On the whole it has been a satisfactory year but the time factor has limited the amount of routine work possible. Despite this, I think it is safe to say that a general improvement in all spheres has been accomplished.

Housing, Food Shops and Meat Inspection claim a large proportion of the time available, so much so, that other routine matters are often neglected. The inspection of old houses and the repairs to old houses is a serious problem. The controlled rents make it very difficult to request the owners to do extensive repairs and the cost of building new houses is now exorbitant.

Despite the number of old houses etc in Penrith it is very encouraging to report that only one case of bed bugs has been reported during the year.

The inspection of food shops and the inspection of foodstuffs call for much attention while, at the Abattoir, a great deal of evening work is necessary to ensure one hundred percent inspection and avoid congestion in distribution.

TABLE I.
SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses
and Other Premises.

Under the Public Health & Housing Acts..	..	..	239
Re housing and housing applications ..	..	..	379
Re drainage defects .. .. .	..	..	29
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	51

Inspection of Other Premises.

Offices. (Section 92 Public Health Act, 1936).	..	4
Hotels etc .. .. .	..	26
Cinemas .. .. .	..	4
Stables.. .. .	..	1
Public Conveniences .. .. .	..	88
Rodent Control.. .. .	..	63
Schools .. .. .	..	6
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	138
Factories. .. .. .	..	64
Refuse Tip .. .. .	..	4

TABLE II.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Dairies..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Ice Cream Retailers..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Meat Retailers.	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Grocers..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Fruiterers	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Food Manufacturers (S. 14 Food and Drugs Act).							18
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Market ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Meat Inspection (visits to Abattoir)	..	..					584

TABLE III.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Carcasses inspected and
Condemned at Penrith Abattoir.

Particulars.	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.	1002	843	491	8031	1004
Number inspected.	1002	843	491	8031	1004
<u>All Diseases</u> <u>except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	17	70	188	131	34
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	550	536	30	905	102
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	56.5%	71.8%	44.3%	12.9%	13.5%
<u>Tuberculosis Only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	4	8	1	Nil	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	66	78	3	Nil	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	6.9%	10.2%	0.8%	Nil	1.8%

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDS OF CONDEMNATION
OF WHOLE CARCASSES AT THE PENRITH ABATTOIR.

	Cattle excluding <u>Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>
Dropsy and Emaciation	3	-
Arthritis and Emaciation	1	-
Johne's Disease	2	32
Pyaemia	1	1
Septic Mastitis	-	3
Dropsy and Internal Bruising..	-	2
Internal Haemorrhage	-	1
Bruising and Poorness	1	1
Septicaemia.	-	4
Pathological Emaciation.	1	12
Fevered	-	8
Dropsy	3	1
Medicine Odour	1	-
Actinomycosis	1	-
Peritonitis.	2	-
Fractured Pelvis and Dropsy ..	-	1
Moribund	1	-
Anaemia	-	2
Gangrene	1	1
Fractured Pelvis and Peritonitis	-	1

	<u>Sheep.</u>
Dropsy and Emaciation	24
Pneumonia	2
Moribund	8
Multiple Injuries.	11
Fractured Pelvis and Peritonitis	1
Emaciation.. .. .	31
Septicaemia.	4
Severe Bruising	3
Fevered	6
Dropsy	24
Anaemia	2
Uraemia	2
Jaundice	2
Pyaemia	2
Medicine Odour	1
Septic Congestion of Thoracic Cavity	1
Contaminated	1
Putrefaction	2
Entero Toxaemia	1

TABLE IVA.

SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDS OF CONDEMNATION
OF WHOLE CARCASSES AT THE PENRITH ABATTOIR.

						<u>Calves.</u>
Immature..	..	..	..	..	..	164
Joint Ill.	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dropsy and Emaciation.			..	..	..	9
Deformity.	..	..	..	..	..	1
Malnutrition	..	..	..	..	..	6
Moribund..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Septic Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	1

						<u>Pigs.</u>
Septicaemia	..	..	..	..	..	1
Peritonitis	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fevered ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Abscesses and Poor Condition			..	..	..	1
Immature..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	3
Pneumonic.	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pyæmia...	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dropsy ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Casualty dressed carcass which failed to set	..	..	..	..	..	1
Spinal Abscesses and Fevered			..	..	..	1

TABLE V.

Particulars of Foodstuffs
Condemned as Unfit for Human
Consumption at Places other
than the Public Abattoir.

A. TINS BLOWN.

252	tins	of	Vegetables
46	"	"	Luncheon Meat
42	"	"	Soup
64	"	"	Evaporated
431	"	"	Fruit
63	"	"	Stewed Steak
35	"	"	Meat
26	"	"	Ham
31	"	"	Veal
5	"	"	Jam
1	"	"	Fruit Pulp
3	"	"	Broth
18	"	"	Fish
10	"	"	Marmalade
14	"	"	Baby Food
1	"	"	Chicken
11	"	"	Apple Jelly
39	"	"	Sardines
2	"	"	Jellied Pork
33	"	"	Shrimps
1	"	"	Fruit Juices

C. GOODS CONTAMINATED.

51	lbs	of	Butter
9	"	"	Chocolate
56	"	"	Sweets
112	"	"	Cattle Food

D. GOODS CONDEMNED
BECAUSE OF ODOUR (SEX).

571 lbs of Cooked Ham

B. GOODS DECOMPOSED.

25	lbs	of	Bacon
9	"	"	Cheese
1	lb	"	Cooked Ham
4	lbs	"	Pork Pie
2	"	"	Butter
99	"	"	Biscuits (Rancid)
6	"	"	Sponge Puddings
12	"	"	Cake Mixture
14	"	"	Macaroon Paste
95	"	"	Cooked Meat
33	"	"	Pressed Beef
75	"	"	Prunes
26	"	"	Jam
42	"	"	Kippers
12	stone	"	Cod Fillets
12	stone	of	Haddock
15	cwts	"	Potatoes
60	bottles	"	Fruit
1	"	"	Sauce
32	"	"	Pickles
1	"	"	Beetroot
1	"	"	Bovril
11	"	"	Fruit Juices
74	boxes	"	Cheese Spread

MEAT INSPECTION AT THE PENRITH PUBLIC ABATTOIR:

With reference to table three, page 19 the following comments are of interest :-

Whole Carcasses Condemned.

98% of the cattle, sheep and pigs totally condemned were casualty cases.

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:

This percentage recorded for cattle and cows includes part livers condemned.

Cysticercus Bovis.

On inspection fourteen beasts were discovered to be affected with cysticercus bovis and of these fourteen, only two beasts had more than one cyst.

Disease of Animals Act.

No animal requiring special notification under the above Act was received at the Penrith Abattoir during the year.

New Legislation - Meat Inspection.

'Memorandum regarding the methods and Criteria of Meat Inspection recommended by the Ministry of Food for Adoption by Local Authorities and their Officers'.

The above memorandum to be known as 'Memo 3 Meat' replaces the old Memo 62/Foods.

Section 3, Part I of the 'Memo' is, in this scattered area, proving difficult to enforce. According to this, no undressed carcass should be admitted to a slaughterhouse unless accompanied by a certificate given by a veterinary surgeon stating the reason for slaughter of the animal and particulars of any drugs which, to his knowledge, have been administered etc.

The farming community appear to be unaware of this ruling and the difficulty starts when a carcass DOES arrive at the Slaughterhouse without a veterinary certificate. If the carcass is not dealt with immediately (it may have been en route for 50 or 60 minutes), there is every chance that the carcass will become 'gassed up' and so have to be condemned. On the other hand, to accept it is a contravention of the 'Memo', plus the possibility that a casualty suffering from one of the diseases requiring special attention under the 'Disease of Animals Act' may be admitted into the Slaughterhouse.

HOUSING:

During the year 94 houses were built by the Council bringing the total number of Council houses up to 749. 14 private houses were built in the Urban area during the same period.

The Council still have a waiting list of about 350 applications, 25% of which are people sharing a dwelling. Of the total number of dwellings in the Urban District some 388 are Category IV property. These Category IV dwellings are houses which, owing to their structural condition and lack of amenities, are really unfit by modern standards for human occupation. Unfortunately these houses are in great demand on account of their low rents. It may be said that we are now reaching the Gilbertian situation where it is too expensive to build new houses owing to the increased loan charges and the rising cost of labour and materials; and that it is too expensive to repair old houses owing to the Rent Restriction Acts together with the high cost of labour etc.

Until the cost of building new houses falls considerably and the Rents Restriction Act is abolished this situation will remain. In the meantime new houses will be slow in forthcoming, old houses will fall into further decay; and prospective clearance areas will have to remain in abeyance.

HOUSE LETTING:

A points scheme has been adopted by the Council to help the Committee select suitable and deserving tenants. On the whole the scheme works remarkably well and it is the human element at fault if some applicant 'jumps the queue'.

Applicants whose medical circumstances are acute are considered on their merits. Applicants whose conditions of living are such that the points scheme cannot cope, are also dealt with as 'special cases' outside the capabilities of the points scheme.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS:

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 - SECTION 2689.

There is only one official movable dwelling used for permanent habitation in the area. This is occupied by the Council's Clerk of Works and is situated on one of the Council's housing estates. This dwelling enjoys a piped water supply, connection to the public sewer; and electricity.

A small field at The Crones, Scotland Road which has been used for many years for accommodating movable dwellings is a constant worry and nuisance. The owner of the field is very reluctant to refuse admission to the field but, at the same time, fails completely to supervise the running of the site. There is no piped water supply in the field, no lavatory accommodation and no refuse facilities. The Council should definitely refuse to allow this field to be used for permanent camping and to insist on compliance with the Public Health Act Regulations.

SCHOOL SANITATION.

I am pleased to be able to report on the satisfactory condition of the schools sanitation. Last year I reported that the sanitary facilities at Brunswick Road School had been modernized. Now I am pleased to report that the trough closets at the Girls' National School have been abolished and separate wash-down closets provided and that, at the Boys' National School, a separate W.C. has been provided for the female teaching staff.

SCHOOL MILK:

All the town schools are supplied with T.T. milk. During the year no sample of school milk was found, on examination at the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, to contain Tubercle Bacilli.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - SECTION 14:

Registration of Premises used in connection with the Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream or Preserved Foods Etc.

There are five manufacturer-retailers of Ice Cream in the town and fifty retailers of ice cream. There are twelve premises registered as suitable for the manufacture of Preserved Foods and there are five Fried Fish and Potato Shops.

During the year seventeen samples of ice cream were examined at the Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle and the results were as follows :-

Grade	I	-	8 samples
"	II	-	1 sample
"	III	-	6 samples
"	IV	-	2 samples.

FOOD POISONING:

There was one case of food poisoning during the year involving one person. A specimen of faeces was examined at the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory and Salmonella Typhi-Murium isolated. No other person in the same family was affected and no other case reported. The source of infection was not found.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND WASHING FACILITIES:

Penrith is one of the gateways to the Lake District but I regret to say that the public conveniences provided are inadequate and that washing facilities just do not exist for such a town. One favourable site for a block of public conveniences with washing facilities is being investigated.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT - RODENT CONTROL:

A part-time man is employed on Rodent Control. He has been trained at one of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries schools in this work and the results of his labour have been satisfactory. As a result of regular sewer treatments the town's sewers are almost clear of rats and although the refuse tip is the biggest problem, control here is satisfactory. It is a pity that public cleansing does not come under this department as it should do then a more rigid form of control tipping could be insisted upon. This would make it much easier to keep the rodent nuisance in abeyance.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

A weekly house-to-house collection of house refuse continues to operate and is dealt with at the Council's refuse tip at Red Hills.

DISINFESTATION:

During the year only one case of bed bugs was reported. This was at a transport cafe. The infestation was very slight and soon responded to treatment. No further infestation has taken place since treatment.

SMOKE NUISANCE:

Complaints from residents in the Victoria Road, Roper Street and Carleton area about smoke and grit nuisance were investigated and as a result, the Gas Works have carried out modifications to plant and Messrs. Glassons Breweries have had slight modifications made to the flues. These should help to improve the condition complained of.

CONCLUSION:

This, my first report to you as your Sanitary Inspector, could be my last one as such in favour of the proposed new designation 'Public Health Inspector'.

This change of designation, recommended by the 'Working Party on the Recruitment, Training and Qualifications of Sanitary Inspectors' will, it is suggested, avoid the misconception about our duties and responsibilities.

The word 'Sanitation' has become connected with drains, sewers and water closets and this has led to 'a quite inadequate and partial view of the wide scope of the work of these officers'.

Whatever the new designation, the 'Sanitary Inspector' will still be the 'Cinderella' of Local Government.

I am, Sir,

Yours Obedient Servant,

RONALD. N. SHARP.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

